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# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### FISHERY UPDATE



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner*  
*Scott Kelley, Director*



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Date: July 12, 2017  
Time: 2:45 p.m.

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#### 2017 POINT GARDNER AND KINGSMILL TEST FISHERIES UPDATE # 3

Point Gardner and Kingsmill test fisheries are ongoing projects that assess pink and chum salmon abundance returning to Section 9-B and District 10. Test fishing at Point Gardner occurs one day per week for 5 weeks starting in statistical week 26 (June 25-July 1). The Kingsmill test fishery occurs one day per week for four weeks starting in statistical week 27 (July 2-July 8). The Point Gardner test fishery has proven to be a very good indicator for pink salmon returning to Frederick Sound and lower Stephens Passage, particularly to District 10. The Kingsmill test fishery is used as an indicator for runs returning to Frederick Sound and to eastern lower Chatham Straits (Section 9-B and District 10). Results from the Kingsmill test fishery are generally less conclusive since the test fishery will catch fish heading north to Frederick Sound and south to Rowan and Tebenkof Bays.

For 2017, *the F/V St. Janet* is conducting both the Point Gardner and Kingsmill Point test fisheries.

**Point Gardner:** The third test fishery was conducted at Point Gardner on Monday, July 10, 2017. All seven scheduled sets were completed. Pink salmon harvest was above average. Chum salmon harvest continued to be above average. Sockeye and coho salmon are also caught during test fisheries but are incidental and minor in relation to the pink and chum salmon harvest.

**Kingsmill:** The second test fishery was conducted at Kingsmill on Tuesday, July 11, 2017. All seven scheduled sets were completed. Pink and chum salmon harvests were well above average. Sockeye and coho salmon are also caught during test fisheries but are incidental and minor in relation to the pink and chum salmon harvest.

**Run Strength:** It is difficult to ascertain the pink salmon run strength heading into Frederick Sound based on the test fishing results to date. This week's Point Gardner pink harvest greatly improved and was above average. The Kingsmill pink salmon harvest was again well above average. It could be the pink salmon run to the early District 10 mainland systems is weaker than normal but the pink salmon returns to the later systems in Frederick Sound may be average to above average. Chum salmon run strength is strong as indicated by the continued above average harvests in both test fisheries.

**Sex Ratio Sampling:** Sex ratio sampling is used as a tool in determining run timing. Numbers of males are higher during the first half of the run and females are more numerous during the last half of the run. Comparing this year's percentage of males in the fishery to the historical average provides an indication of whether the run is earlier, later, or similar in run timing to previous runs. Point Gardner test fishing results continues to have below average pink salmon percent males, which indicates earlier than normal run timing. The Kingsmill test fishing results from this week had a below average percent males for pink salmon. Since last week's percent males was near average, the combined test fisheries would indicate a

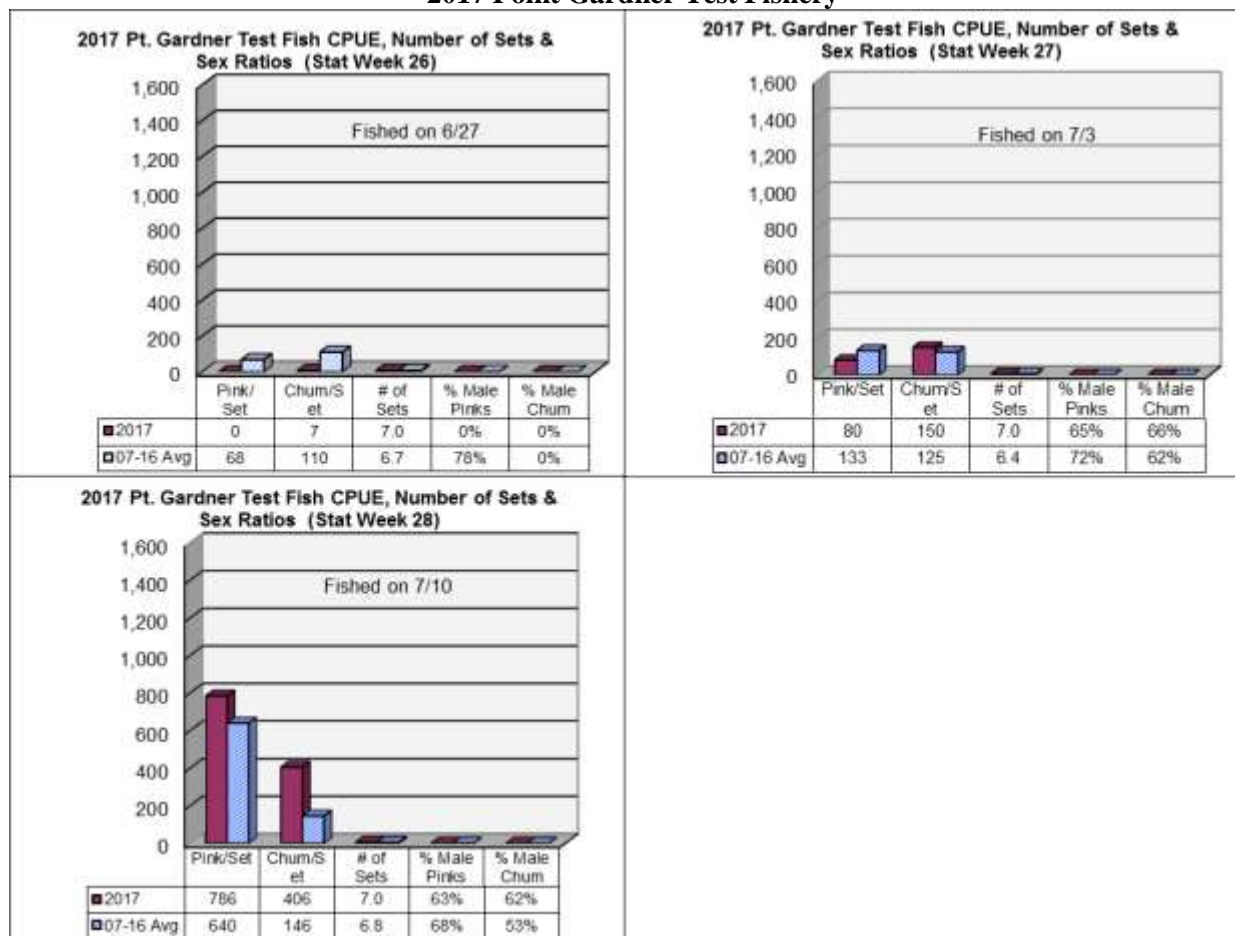
run timing slightly earlier than normal. The chum salmon sex ratio samples sizes have been too small for definitive results, but all samples from all testing fishing periods indicate a later than normal run timing.

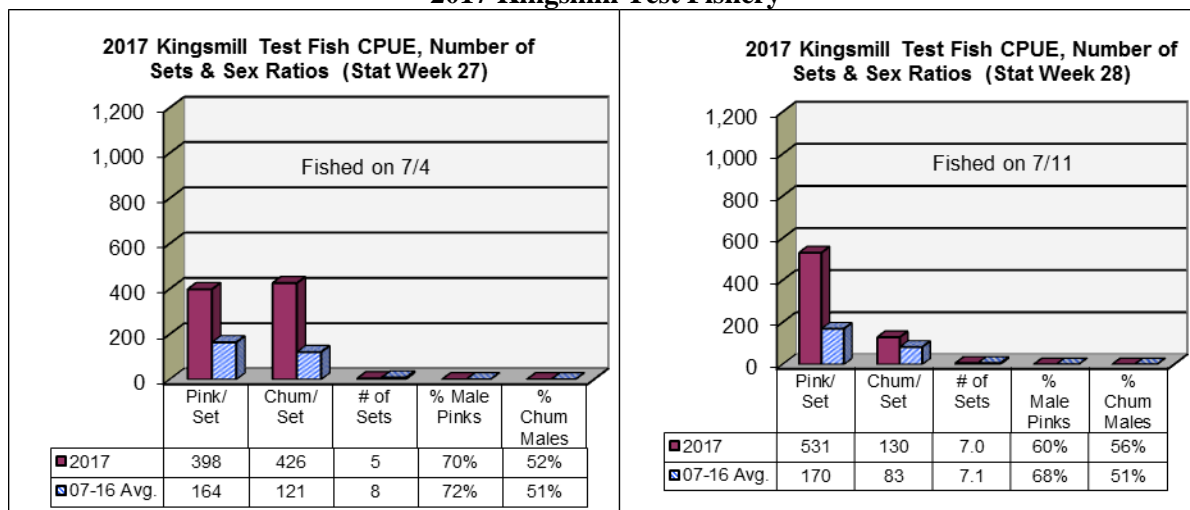
### Average Weights:

- Point Gardner: pink salmon: 4.0 pounds; chum salmon: 7.4 pounds;
- Kingsmill: pink salmon: 3.9 pounds; chum salmon; 8.1 pounds.

**Next Test Fisheries:** Point Gardner and Kingsmill test fisheries are scheduled for Wednesday, July 19.

### 2017 Point Gardner Test Fishery



**2017 Kingsmill Test Fishery**

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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